

GSA Link

Issue 7

March 2005

MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR



Regional Administrator Larry Trujillo

By now you have seen media reports about confiscated items at our nation's airports. USA Today, February 7, 2006, addressed this issue that continues to frustrate passengers who must surrender items prohibited by the U. S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA). USA Today correctly labeled such items as surrendered, rather than confiscated. So what does this have to do with GSA - especially GSA in Denver?

When the screening process first began a few years ago, TSA came to GSA's FSS Personal Property staff seeking solutions. The GSA Personal Property Center in Building 41 at the Denver Federal Center was established to help federal agencies deal with excess government-owned property. Furthermore, surrendered or voluntarily abandoned property at the airport becomes U.S. Government property. As such, TSA reports it to GSA for disposal.

Once TSA reports the voluntarily abandoned items for disposal, there are a series of steps GSA must take to properly dispose of the property:

GSA arranges to pick up the property at the Denver International Airport (DIA). Typically, 400 – 500 pounds per month is collected. However, that number has declined since small scissors, fingernail clippers, etc. are no longer prohibited. If you want further information on what is prohibited visit the TSA Website: http://www.tsa.gov/public/interapp/editorial/editorial_1012.xml. Property from other airports around Colorado is also collected for disposal.

Once items are brought to the warehouse, GSA sorts them into similar commodities such as multi-tools, knives, and scissors.

GSA first offers to transfer or donate items for further use by authorized agencies such as:

- National Science Foundation - Leatherman multi-tools for use at the Antarctica Research Facility
- U.S Army - tools and knives
- U.S. Forest Service Fire Cache at the Denver Federal Center – tools
- South Dakota and Wyoming State Agencies for Surplus Property – tools, knives, scissors

GSA then sells the remaining items to the public on GSAAUCTIONS®. Proceeds from the sale of the property are used to defer the costs of running the Property Center, including rent charges. Of note, GSA employees are prohibited from purchasing property being sold by GSA.

So now you know two things: Forgetfulness is costly (remember to leave your tools and knives at home) and the federal government, as well as state and local governments, make good use of the property “voluntarily abandoned” by the forgetful.

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OUR SERVICES

Human Resources News and Information - *Keith Johnson*

With the support of Region 7 Human Resources Office, Region 8 Human Resources proudly serves the associates in six states of the Rocky Mountain Region. The following information highlights benefits and events that associates need to be aware of during the 2006 year.

THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN (TSP)

Effective July 1, 2005, the TSP open season was eliminated. Associates covered by CSRS, CSRS-Offset, or FERS may now make contribution elections (elective deferrals) to start, change, stop, or resume their TSP contributions at any time. TSP contribution elections will be effective the beginning of the first full pay period after the TSP-1, Thrift Savings Plan Election Form, has been received by the Human Resources Office or the Consolidated Personnel Processing Center (CPC).

TSP catch-up contributions for associates age 50 or older can be elected at any time during the year. Elections will only apply to the year for which they are made. You may elect the TSP catch-up contributions for 2006 beginning December 25, 2005, thru December 8, 2006. Elections made after December 8, 2006, will apply to 2007. The catch-up contribution limit for 2006 is \$5,000. Associates must be contributing the maximum IRS limit of \$15,000 to elect catch-up contributions.

For more detailed information about TSP go to: <http://www.tsp.gov>.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS (FEHB)

Open season was held November-December for four weeks. Other opportunities to enroll or to change current enrollment are limited to "qualifying life events," (i.e., change in marital or family status). Associates are responsible for notifying the Human Resources Office or the Consolidated Personnel Processing Center when they no longer have eligible family members to be covered by FEHB. To find out more go to: www.opm.gov/insure.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES GROUP LIFE INSURANCE (FEGLI)

Although there is no annual open season to enroll or increase life

insurance coverage, qualifying life events (i.e., change in marital or family status) do allow for some changes in FEGLI coverage. One may also make application and take a physical examination (at one's own expense) to obtain coverage.

Associates may waive/cancel Basic, Option A-Standard, Option B-Additional, or Option C-Family or reduce multiples of Option B and/or Option C at any time.

Associates are responsible for notifying the Human Resources Office or the Consolidated Personnel Processing Center when they no longer have eligible family members to be covered by Option C-Family. More information on life insurance: www.opm.gov/insure.

BENEFICIARY FORMS

Beneficiary forms should be updated as information on designated beneficiaries' changes. If a designated beneficiary form is not on file, payment is made to (1) a widow or widower, (2) children, (3) parents, (4) court-appointed executor or administrator of the estate, (5) other next of kin entitled under the laws of the State where insured lived.

Designations are made using the following forms:

- SF 2823, Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance
- SF 1152, Unpaid Compensation of Deceased Civilian Employee
- TSP-3, Thrift Savings Plan
- SF 2808, Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS)
- SF 3102, Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS)

Forms are available through the GSA Forms Library of the GSA InSite, OPM Website (<http://www.opm.gov/forms>), and the TSP Website (<http://www.tsp.gov>), or in the HR office, Bldg. 41, Room 210.

For further assistance about employee benefits and HR information in general, please contact: Keith Johnson at 303-236-7153 or Donna Vallejos at 303-236-7478

UPCOMING EVENTS

North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) - Denver 2006 - *Carolyn Helstrom*

The North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) is a large-scale multi-sport and cultural celebration offering competition in 16 sports for youth between the ages of 13-19 and adults ages 20 and over that features an opening and closing ceremonies and cultural village. This event will be held July 2 – 9, 2006, in the Denver-metro areas from Boulder to Colorado Springs. The 2006 NAIG follows the Olympic Games format. The best competitors in each sport will receive a medal. Government agencies throughout Colorado are supporting this event through representation as sponsors, partners, and/or supporters/volunteers. GSA is looking for volunteers to support this event. If you are interested in participating, please call Carolyn Helstrom at 303-236-0717.

OUR SERVICES

Connecting With You, Our Customer - *Sally Mayberry*

The Public Buildings Service (PBS) Office of Customer Service is here to establish and develop a strategic relationship with you, our customer. We have a team of five associates, working diligently to connect with you. Their focus is on:

- Understanding your organizational needs
- Advising you on your portfolio of space
- Facilitating your project work within the Rocky Mountain Region
- Presenting you with workplace solutions
- Providing a direct communications link to all parts of the Public Buildings Service

Our Regional Account Managers (RAMs) work to identify ways to improve our customer service by:

- Acting as an informational conduit for you
- Supporting consistency by partnering with other services, regions, and our headquarters office
- Supporting customer focused national initiatives

We value your business and recognize that our success is directly tied to yours. Please contact us at your convenience.

Janice Dinkel, 303.236.8000 ext. 2335 or Janice.dinkel@gsa.gov
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Janice Dinkel



Ed Holton



Gloria Rue



Leslie Galluzzo



Karma Phillips

UPCOMING EVENTS

FedFleet 2006: Driving Toward Excellence - *Anna Friend*

FedFleet 2006 will be held June 20 - 22 at the Los Angeles Convention Center and will offer:

- More than 40 educational training sessions covering a wide range of significant fleet management issues, including for the first time, extensive Aviation Workshop sessions and an all-day Basic Fleet Management class
- An outstanding array of guest speakers
- Ample time and places to network with other participants, share best practices, and discuss important topics that affect your job day in and day out
- A large exhibit hall featuring a wide array of products, vehicles, and services

For more information, go to www.fedfleet.org, or call the FedFleet help line at 1-800-315-4333. You may also send email to help@fedfleet.org.

We hope to see you there!

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Black History Month Annual Diversity Training Program - *James Foster*



In honor of Black History Month, the Rocky Mountain Region Black Employment Program, in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs, hosted this year's Annual Diversity Training Program. The theme for this year's program was "Celebrating Communities: A Tribute to Black Fraternal Social and Civic Institutions." The Mistress of Ceremony for the event was Channel 9 News Anchor Bazi Kanani. The

keynote speaker was poet, journalist, writer, and civil rights activist Ta'Shia Asanti. Essence Magazine and Urban Spectrum Newspaper have published Ms. Asanti's poetry and essays. Region 8's Regional Administrator Larry Trujillo and VA Director Jeff Alger welcomed more than 150 associates from GSA, Veterans Affairs, and other federal agencies. If you have any questions, please contact either James Foster at 303 236-2812 or Tanya Burks at 303 236-8000 ex 2372.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Big Thank You To Our Customers - *Sally Mayberry*

GSA's Public Buildings Service appreciates you, our customer, taking the time to respond to our surveys - thank you! Your feedback is critical to helping PBS continually improve its strategies to better meet your goals. The 2006 Survey schedule is as follows:

- Realty Transaction Survey: started February 15, 2006
- Customer Satisfaction Survey: begins early summer 2006

Demonstrating Commitment Toward Sustainable Design - *Sally Mayberry*

Did you know that the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 8 Headquarters is moving to a new environmentally sustainable building in downtown Denver?

The building is located at 1595 Wynkoop Street and it will house 900 EPA associates. At street level, the structure matches the brick architecture of the area. The interior will feature a sunlight-filled glass atrium rising through the entire nine-story height. The structure will take advantage of natural lighting, using 30 percent less energy than a typical office building. It is an outstanding example of environmental sustainability. Construction is scheduled to be complete in winter 2006.

Some major sustainable design features will include, but not be limited to:

- The building is topped by a green roof featuring a garden of drought tolerant plants. The roof serves several roles: filtering and holding some storm water, cooling roof temperatures to reduce the urban heat island effect, slowing the loss of heat and cool air from the building, and improving air quality. This will be the first green roof in Denver.
- The construction incorporates recycled products and environmentally certified wood products. Bathroom vanities contain recycled glass. The plumbing system features low-flow water fixtures and waterless urinals.
- The site is located near several public transit options, including the 16th Street Mall shuttle and the central mode of the light rail transportation hub at Union Station.
- The building is designed to allow future installation of on-site energy generation using wind turbines and solar panels.

GSA is committed to incorporating principles of sustainable design and energy efficiency into all of its building projects. The result is an optimal balance of cost, environmental, societal and human benefits while meeting the mission and function of the intended facility. It is GSA's intent that sustainable design will be integrated as seamlessly as possible into the existing design and construction process.

For more information, please contact Mark Pearce at 303.844.0660 or mark.pearce@gsa.gov.



DFC NEWS

DFC Site Plan Study - Lisa Morpurgo



Denver Federal Center SITE PLAN STUDY

Your Voice Heard: Stakeholders Participate in Master Planning

Listening is a pivotal part of the Master Site Plan process for the Denver Federal Center. Your suggestions will help us plan for innovative and compatible new uses while maintaining the integrity and functionality of the Federal Center. Stakeholder input -- from current federal tenants to members of the community -- is critical to helping the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), and the entire project team, accomplish the following project goals:

- Safeguard the interest and meet the current and future needs of federal tenants
- Maximize the value and appeal of the Denver Federal Center
- Establish a vision of a mixed-use urban center
- Capitalize on the premier location and campus setting to attract new users, both federal and non-federal

First Tenant Meetings Held

In January, representatives from 25 agencies located at the DFC participated in a series of four federal tenant meetings. It was the first of many upcoming opportunities to share ideas and share concerns related to the DFC planning project. Emerging as key topics were:

- Traffic planning
- Infrastructure improvement
- Facilities upgrades
- Potential financial impacts for tenants
- Wildlife and open space preservation
- Maintaining a balance of security and increased community access
- Centralized services and amenities

First Open House Meetings Held

On March 2nd, an Open House was held to introduce the project to all federal tenants. This open meeting was held in conjunction with a 2-day project team workshop, giving tenants an opportunity to view some of the preliminary site options, actually "looking over the shoulders" of the project team at work. Later that evening, a second Open House was held to introduce the local community to the overall project.

Opportunities to Participate

Over the coming months, there will be additional opportunities to learn more and provide your input to the Master Site Plan Study and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). In April 2006, a project Website will be established and general fact sheets and other information describing the project will continue to be published. Look for on-going updates and news via the GSA Link, as well as in various community publications.

For additional information on the project, contact Lisa Morpurgo, Sr. Project Manager, GSA, at 303-236-8000 ext. 5039 or lisa.morpurgo@gsa.gov.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acting FTS Assistant Regional Administrator - Debra Deaver



Carlos Usera has a strong background in all areas of systems and human resource management. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point with a Bachelors Degree in Engineering and was an Army

Scholar earning his Masters of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering from Clemson University in South Carolina. He held various leadership and operational positions as a United States Army Military Police Officer. He served as an Operations Research / Systems Analyst for major military commands prior to his retirement in 1994.

Following his military career, Carlos continued to serve in various high-level Information Technology management positions. Prior to his current assignment with GSA Federal Supply Service, Carlos was the Director of Information Technology with the Kansas Department of Corrections.

Carlos is married with four children and a grandson. In his spare time, he teaches on-line college classes in Math, spreadsheets, and database management.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2006 Small Business Outreach Event

**Date and Time:**

Tuesday, April 25th	5:00 PM – 6:30 PM	Reception
Wednesday, April 26th	7:00 AM – 4:30 PM	
Thursday, April 27th	7:00 AM – 4:30 PM	

Location:

Antlers Hilton, 4 South Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Cost to Attend:

\$200 per person. Fee includes SB Educational Seminars, reception, breakfast and lunch on both days.

Keynote Speakers:

- Joseph G. Diamond, Director, AF Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization
- Joann H. Langston, Principal Assist. Responsible for Cont., Army Cont. Agency, Northern Region
- Mark J. Lumer, Principal Assis. Responsible for Contracting for U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Com.
- Scott F. Denniston, Dir., Off. of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization, Center for Veterans Enterprise

Participants:

- Air Force Space Command (AFSPC)
- SMDC/Army Forces Strategic Command
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- USAF Academy
- Army Contracting Agency, Fort Carson
- Peterson AFB
- Schriever AFB
- U.S. General Services Administration (GSA)
- Small Business Administration (SBA)

Sponsored by the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce.

GSA Expo Information

- « Four full days – May 15, 16, 17, and 18
- « Classes taught by Federal experts
- « Over 600 commercial vendors on display
- « All exhibitors are GSA contractors
- « Over 100 JWOD partners will also be exhibiting
- « Earn Continuous Learning Points (CLPs)
- « Learn the latest from Acquisition Professionals
- « FREE FREE FREE

On behalf of the GSA EXPO
NATIVE AMERICAN BUSINESS CENTER
Brings you:

Our Paths Meet...
Completing the Circle

Plan on attending this one day training on **May 16, 2006**, designed for Tribes, Tribal Councils, Tribal Enterprises, contracting officers, procurement specialists, and federal employees.

Training will include topics on:

- « How to submit for a .nsn.gov domain
- « How to purchase GSA services/products
- « How to obtain excess property, government vehicles, and purchase cards
- « How to win government contracts
- « ...and more!
- « Also, an all day training on the Indian Self Determination Act P.L. 93-638 presented by Mr. Ben Nuvamsa, President/CEO of the KIVA Institute, LLC

For more information, please contact Carolyn Helstrom with the Native American Business Center at 303-236-8000 ext. 0717 carolyn.helstrom@gsa.gov



May 15 - 18, 2006
Henry B. Gonzalez
Convention Center
San Antonio, Texas

Please join us!
expo.gsa.gov
1-888-272-5565